

KENTUCKY TALKING BOOK LIBRARY NEWS, WINTER 2014

BARD Mobile App Is Here!



**Download talking books to iPad,
iPhone, and iPod touch!**

Pictured at left: BARD Mobile icon

In September, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) released the free BARD Mobile App for iOS devices. Patrons who own an iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch with iOS version 4.3 or later can now download books and magazines directly to their device. The app will play digital talking books, and digital Braille books can be read through a refreshable Braille display linked to the device.

Patrons must already have an account for BARD, the Braille and Audio Reading Download website, to use the app. If you haven't used BARD recently and need help with your login information, please contact the Kentucky Talking Book Library at 1-800-372-2968, (502) 564-8300 ext. 276, or ktbl.mail@ky.gov. To apply for a BARD account, just complete the brief online application for BARD at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/ktblbardapp>

Here are some quick facts about BARD Mobile:

- It's a free download from the iTunes App Store
<http://tinyurl.com/bardmobileapp>
- By default, the app will download books using a wi-fi internet connection, but users can also enable the app to use cellular data. Keep in mind that your cell phone carrier may charge for data used to download books.
- If you prefer, you can download books to your computer and transfer them to your iOS device using iTunes.
- You can watch some great BARD how-to videos created by NLS on YouTube:
<http://tinyurl.com/bardmobilevideos>
- KTBL librarians can help you with questions regarding the app, but we cannot teach you how to use your mobile device over the phone.
- You can have up to 5 iOS devices linked to your BARD account.
- An app for Android devices is in development.

Staff Changes at KTBL

The staff lineup for Talking Books has changed a bit in the past few months:

- In July, office support assistant Greta Wise retired after 15 years in Talking Books and many more in state government. We wish Greta the best and thank her for her service.
- In November, we welcomed an administrative assistant, Devon Stivers. She's our new jack-of-all-trades—answering calls, helping with book circulation, and even working in our recording area. Please be sure to give her a warm welcome if you catch her on the phone!
- In December, librarian Kate Sumner accepted a position with another library. We are sad to see her go, but we are grateful for the two wonderful years she gave us.

Kate was the librarian assigned to patrons with last names R-Z. If she was your librarian, please use KTBL's general contact information instead of calling Kate's number or emailing her. One of our three librarians will be glad to help you.

General e-mail: ktbl.mail@ky.gov

General phone: 1-800-372-2968 (KY toll-free) or (502) 564-8300 ext 276

Spread the Word about Talking Books

Did you know that approximately 3% of all Kentuckians have a visual disability that might make them eligible for Talking Book service? That's about 130,000 people--yet we are currently serving only a fraction of them. You can help us reach those who could benefit from our service. We can supply you with brochures to hand out, or flyers you can post on a bulletin board or in the window at your local grocery store, drug store, church, apartment building, place of work, senior citizens center, library, etc. (Ask management for permission first.) If you are unable to get out and about, perhaps a family member could help. Contact KTBL to request a flyer or brochures. Help people in your community find the same pleasure in Talking Books that you do.

New Area Code in Western Kentucky

Starting February 1 people who live in western Kentucky must use the full 10-digit number to dial any local or long distance phone calls. The Kentucky Public Services Commission created a new 364 area code in December 2012 to meet the demand for new telephone numbers in Western Kentucky. If you have a phone number in the 270 area code, your number will not change, but you will have to enter the area code to make all calls—even within your city. The first new numbers using the 364 area code may be assigned after March 1.

Changes to NLS Magazines

Smart Computing magazine has ceased publication and NLS has selected ***Wired*** as a replacement. ***Wired*** is a monthly magazine that presents wide-ranging news and opinion concerning technology industries and the digital environment. ***Smart Computing*** subscribers will receive ***Wired*** automatically on digital cartridge unless they choose to cancel their subscription by notifying KTBL. ***Wired*** is also available for download from BARD.

Last spring, NLS also replaced ***American Heritage*** magazine due to its irregular publication schedule. Subscribers now receive ***American History*** in its place.

Further, following extensive discussion and analysis of declining interest, NLS has indefinitely suspended the Young Adult Magazine of the Month program. This change is effective January 1, 2014. The regular Magazine of the Month program will continue. NLS welcomes comments.

If you have any questions or comments about NLS magazines, please contact the Kentucky Talking Book Library at 1-800-372-2968, (502) 564-8300 ext 276, or ktbl.mail@ky.gov.

Thanks for Supporting KTBL!

We would like to extend a big thank-you to everyone who donated to the Kentucky Talking Book Library in the past year. We appreciate your gifts, whether you gave \$1 or \$1000, because they allowed us to buy more blank digital cartridges. We're making extra copies of popular titles and expanding our collection of digital Kentucky books. While we don't have the space in this newsletter to list every donor, please know that your continued support means the world to us.

The Kentucky Talking Book Library's services depend on donations from patrons, their family and friends, and other interested parties. We use these funds for purchasing specialty items such as digital cartridges and mailing containers, mail card printers, and recording equipment, as well as Kentucky books to record, Braille paper, labels, and printing costs for outreach materials. Our service would be greatly reduced if we did not continue to receive your kind donations. Please keep it up and consider including KTBL in your estate planning.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to our library, please send a check or money-order to: Kentucky Talking Book Library, PO Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602. You will receive a thank-you letter you can use for tax purposes.

Volunteer Spotlight: Multi-tasking Superstars!



KTBL volunteer Jean Anne Webb narrates a book by Jan Watson.

Since 1978, KTBL volunteers have created over 1500 audiobooks. Volunteers contribute to several parts of production: narrating the book, directing recording sessions, and reviewing completed recordings. Some KTBL narrators trained to review books this year in order to help with a backlog of recordings. It was a learning experience for everyone.

We asked them to reflect on what the experience has taught them about narrating. Jean Anne Webb said, “Having the opportunity to proofread has affected my narrating in a positive way. Previously I was not inclined to pre-read the piece that I was narrating, but I do now and I think that my narration is smoother.”

Richard Crane, one of our ‘triple-threat’ volunteers who narrates, directs, and reviews books, said, “Hearing the various styles of other narrators has shown me what to improve on (slower pacing and better emphasis) and what to avoid (loud breathing and talking too fast)”. Richard enjoys all aspects of production, but Jean Anne and Keith Knox prefer working behind the microphone. According to Keith, “Proofreading is much more difficult. Listening is quite a bit more demanding to me than reciting or reading a script.”

A HUGE thank-you to our all of our wonderful current volunteers: Priscilla Barnes, Kristin Cantrell, Richard Crane, Don Dampier, Susan Dance, Richard Feindel, Rich Green, Joyce Honaker, Adell Kemper, Janet Kinstle, Keith Knox, Dennis Krol, Nick Lykins, Sara Perkins, Ed Powe, Norma Rash, Wanda Rodgers, Paula Rutledge, John Schaaf, Emily Sedgwick, David Semones, Lynda Sherrard, Barbara Smith, Sally Smothermon, Roger Stapleton, Steve Taylor, Filly Tierney, Bill Van Arsdall, Mary Vaughn, Jean Anne Webb, Marvin Weinberger, and Ann Zimmer. Thanks also to past volunteers who have helped through the years.

Special thanks to Russ Hatter, one of our earliest volunteers. Russ has decided to ‘retire’ from volunteering after more than 30 years. His special interest in Kentucky history has resulted in a truly remarkable collection of recordings. He even narrated his own book, A Walking Tour of Historic Frankfort (DKY 2580). Narrators like Russ don’t often get feedback from patrons about their work. Let us know what you think so we can share your comments with them.

Do you know someone who’s interested in volunteering? Please contact the Kentucky Talking Book Library at ktbl.mail@ky.gov or 1-800-372-2968.

Kentucky Vices Bibliography

Do you enjoy your Bluegrass with a side of scandal? Try these books, both new and old, from the digital Kentucky collection.

□ ****NEW**** DKY 3176 Madam Belle Brezing by Buddy Thompson – Biography of Belle Brezing - madam of one of the South's finest brothels and the prototype for Belle Watling in "Gone with the Wind." She would eventually become so renowned that Time magazine noted her death in its obituary column. Some descriptions of sex and some rough language. 1983. Narrated by Barbara Smith. 5 hours, 43 minutes.

□ ****NEW**** DKY 3048 Wicked Newport by Thomas Barker, Gary W. Potter, & Jenna Meglen. Controlled by the mob and fueled by government corruption, Newport, Kentucky, became a notorious center of criminal activity throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Its gambling and prostitution establishments remained in place until reform efforts of the 1980's. 2008. Narrated by John David Semones. 4 hours, 25 minutes.

□ ****NEW**** DKY 3153 The Cornbread Mafia: A Homegrown Syndicate's Code of Silence and the Biggest Marijuana Bust in American History by James Higdon. In 1987, Johnny Boone cultivated one of the largest outdoor marijuana crops in history and became a federal fugitive. Higdon describes the clash between federal and local law enforcement in Marion County, Kentucky, which began with moonshine during Prohibition and continued through the Vietnam era to 1989, when 200 tons of marijuana were confiscated. Strong language. 2012. Narrated by Lynda Sherrard. 15 hours, 8 minutes.

□ DKY 2250 Inside the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire by Ron Elliott. As told by Wayne Dammert, a former employee, this is the history of the supper club in Southgate, Kentucky, and an account of the fire that destroyed it in 1977. 1996. Narrated by Barbara Smith. 8 hours, 3 minutes.

□ DKY 1854 The Bluegrass Conspiracy: An Inside Story of Power, Greed, Drugs and Murder by Sally Denton. In 1985 blue-blooded former Lexington police officer Drew Thornton parachuted to his death carrying thousands in cash and 80 pounds of cocaine. His death unleashed an investigation into the criminal organization known as "The Company" that would eventually reach the highest political and social circles of Kentucky. Some strong language. 2001. Narrated by Richard Crane. 14 hours, 15 minutes.

□ DKY 1964 Pauline's by Pauline Tabor – The outspoken autobiography of a notorious madam who operated a brothel in Bowling Green during the 40s, 50s, and 60s. No aspect of the mercenary business of prostitution is shied away from. Some strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, some violence. 1971. Narrated by Mary Vaughn. 10 hours 14 minutes.

2014 KTBL/State Government Holidays

April 18 - Good Friday (close at noon)
May 26 - Memorial Day
July 4 - Independence Day
September 1 - Labor Day

November 11 - Veterans Day
November 27-28 - Thanksgiving
December 25-26 - Christmas

KTBL Contact Information

Kentucky Talking Book Library
PO Box 537
300 Coffee Tree Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40602-0537

1-800-372-2968 (toll-free)
1-502-564-8300 ext 276 (local)
E-mail: ktbl.mail@ky.gov
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 ET

This newsletter is available in large-print, Braille, audio, and e-mail formats.

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BLIND AND PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED, DMM 703.5

